Notifications by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

GENERAL.

NOTIFICATION.

No. 18. *The 17th November* 1874.

The following Rules for the appointment of Patels in Coorg are published for general information :—

RULES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PATELS.

1. The Patels in Coorg are remunerated by land held on gaud-umbli tenure or by payments in money which vary according to the revenue of the village.

2. Such emoluments shall be considered as inalienable from the offices to which they are annexed, whether by mortgage, sale, gift, or otherwise, and they shall not be liable to attachment or other process in satisfaction of judicial decrees.

3. The Patelships shall, as a general rule, be considered hereditary, but in any case in which it may appear to the Superintendent that the hereditary claimant is from old age, incurable disease, incapacity, or bad character, unfit for the office, the Superintendent shall be competent to appoint in his stead one of his male relations, *viz.*, a son, an undivided brother or a grand-son, and in their absence cousins and more distant relations, provided they possess the requisite qualifications for the office. If there be no qualified male relative, any other land-holder residing in the village who may be best suited to the office by his position and qualifications may be nominated, for the period during which no qualified member of the hereditary family may be available. If no qualified member of the old family be forthcoming for twenty years, the Patelship will be finally confirmed to the family of the new Patel.

4. When the heir of a Patel is a minor, the Superintendent will select a qualified relative, or, if none be qualified, a Gumasta may be appointed to act as Patel until the minor attains his majority.

5. The Government may dismiss from employment a Patel found guilty of misconduct. In such a case his rights will not generally be confiscated to the State, but will be continued to his heirs unless the offence was a serious one, committed in the execution of his official duty. The Superintendent may select the successor of the dismissed Patel in the office and the rights attached thereto, and a divided brother or cousin of the dismissed Patel having no joint interest with him if in all respects fitted therefor will be eligible to succeed.

6. In many instances, particularly in North Coorg, there are two or three Patels in one village. The office being held by more than one man causes a division of responsibility which is often detrimental to the interests of Government, and though it is not desired that present incumbents should be interfered with, an investigation will be made on the death of a joint holder in view to deciding whether the family of the deceased or that of any of the surviving incumbents has a better title to the office, and when a decision is adverse to the family of the deceased joint Patel, no successor will be appointed to him. In the event of the claims of the several families being nearly balanced, a Patel will be appointed in turn as vacancies occur from each family, but only one Patel at a time will be allowed.

7. In large villages where there may be a necessity for the services of more than one Patel, the village should be divided into parts, so that each Patel may have a distinct jurisdiction.

8. When gaud-umbli land attached to the office of a Patel cannot conveniently pass into the hands of the successor to the office, the land shall be assessed at the full rates, and be left in the possession of the family of the ex-Patel, the remuneration being adjusted with the new Patel by the deduction of the amount of the emoluments of the office from the amount of assessment annually payable by him to Government for his kandayam lands.

9. Claims to succession to or to the possession of hereditary village offices are not to be cognizable by any of the ordinary Civil Courts.

"By Order,"

H. WELLESLEY,
Offg. Secretary.